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Book Reviews

The Coward of Thermopylae. By CAROLINE DOLE SNEDEKER.
New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1911. \$1.20.

The mere paucity of Greek historical novels would probably warrant a brief notice of a new work of this kind, whatever its merits might be. If this is true, the book under consideration would require a rather extensive notice, if it were to be commensurate with its merits.

The "coward," who paradoxically is the hero of the novel, is Aristodemos, the sole survivor of the band of Leonidas at Thermopylae, according to Herodotus. We are also told by Herodotus how he was hated thereafter by the Spartans because of his apparent cowardice, and how this hatred did not cease even when he proved himself a real hero at the battle of Plataea. These and a few additional statements of Herodotus furnish the main points of the story. The author has taken some discreet liberties with history, but very few in comparison with the usual historical novel, and it is very gratifying to note that she has avoided romance.

The charm and chief value of the book lie in its delineations of Greek character and life. The contrast between the spirit of Athens and that of Sparta is clearly shown, and Spartan life is admirably portrayed. The military and religious spirit of Sparta; Greek peasant life; Delphi and incidentally the methods used by Apollo's priests to obtain the prophecies from the god; the pathetic inability of the Greek city-states to band together—these are some of the subjects which are clearly portrayed. They combine to make the book a source of profit and pleasure to the young and of pleasure at least, to older readers.

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The Essentials of Greek Syntax. An Outline of the Ordinary Prose Constructions, Together with Exercises in Composition Based on Xenophon, Lysias, and Plato's *Apology*. By CHARLES CHRISTOPHER MIEROW, PH.D., Instructor in Classics in Princeton University. Boston, New York, Chicago, London: Ginn & Co., 1911. Pp. vii+165.

The first sixty pages of this book are taken up with statements of the ordinary constructions of Greek prose, in compact form, with one or more examples in each case to illustrate the rule, and with references to four grammars for fuller details—Goodwin, Hadley-Allen, Babbitt, and Goodell. The

Cases are presented first, followed by the Pronouns, the Prepositions, the Verb Constructions, and the Negatives. The author follows in the main the treatment as given in Goodwins' *Greek Grammar*, but in regard to the Verb has made use of the system in West's *Latin Grammar*. The arrangement is such as to show at a glance the outline of the subject. The rules are well stated; and it is only in minor details that changes are suggested. In p. 7, ἐτιμώρησα is less common in the sense of "punish" than the middle, ἐτιμωρησάμην, which is found in the passage (Xen. *Anab.* vii. 1. 25) from which this example is taken. On p. 33, § 133, attention might be called to the fact that, when the infinitive is used with πρίν, it is generally in the aorist tense, as Professor Gildersleeve has pointed out. On p. 35, § 138, 3, the footnote states that in the Present General Condition an equivalent for the present indicative may be substituted; the same statement should be made for the imperfect indicative in the Past General Condition. At the bottom of p. 36, it would be helpful to have a cross-reference on πᾶν and πάντες to § 118, where the distinction between present and aorist is given. On p. 42, footnote 1, δοκέω is more frequently found in the sense of "seem," than in that of "believe" or "think," and takes the infinitive in that sense. On p. 59, § 247, the author follows the common statement that the repetition of the negative strengthens the negation. This was probably the case originally; but the repetition of the negative has become the normal usage in Greek, and thus has lost its emphasis. But these are comparatively small points. Following the treatment of the syntax we have about 100 pages of exercises, based on Xenophon's *Anabasis*, the speeches of Lysias and the *Apology* of Plato, constructed so as to illustrate the principles stated in Part I. These exercises are arranged in four series, indicated by the letters A, B, C, and D. Series A is taken from the first book of the *Anabasis*, series B from the second, and so on. Each series brings out all the rules of the syntactical part. A similar arrangement is followed in the sentences taken from Lysias and from Plato. There are no connected passages for translation from English into Greek, but some of the sentences are long enough to give practice in joining clauses together.

The book will be serviceable to teachers both for the purpose of reviewing the principles of syntax and as furnishing material for composition work; it will be particularly acceptable to those who desire a change from the ceaseless round in following the *Anabasis*.

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